

DOCKET NO.: ISIS-4407
Application No.: 09/640,279
Office Action Dated: August 12, 2003

PATENT
REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO
37 CFR § 1.116

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

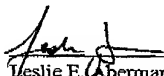
This response supplements the Reply faxed on September 24, 2003, in connection with the above-identified application.

Applicants would like to correct a statement made on page 9 of their response dated May 28, 2003, wherein they mistakenly stated that the Ravikumar patent (U.S. Patent No. 5,614,621) was not available as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 103 pursuant to §706.02(k).

This error is not believed to substantively impact prosecution, however, since the Examiner noted on page 8 of the Office Action dated April 9, 2003, that the Ravikumar patent does not teach treating an extended compound with a mixture comprising an oxidizing reagent and capping reagent in a single step.

The foregoing represents a *bona fide* attempt to advance the present case to allowance. Applicants submit that this application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, an indication of allowability and an early Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

Date: October 3, 2003


Leslie E. Aberman
Registration No. 54,836

Woodcock Washburn LLP
One Liberty Place - 46th Floor
Philadelphia PA 19103
Telephone: (215) 568-3100
Facsimile: (215) 568-3439

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